



The following are highlights of our recent activities and ongoing programs:

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Help Us Win the Next Daily Challenge in America's Giving Challenge!

EarthRights International (ERI) recently entered America's Giving Challenge, an online competition paying out \$170,000 in prizes to NGOs. We're not in the running for the overall prize, but we **are** setting our sights on a single daily challenge, running from 3pm EST today (Wednesday) until 3pm EST on Thursday. The Challenge counts donors, not dollars, so we need everyone to chip in if we want to win.



[Help us win this daily challenge with a small donation!](#) (\$10 minimum)

You do **not** need to be a Facebook user to participate, but if you are on Facebook, please join our cause as well and invite your friends to support ERI.

New ERI Reports on the Yadana Project Receive Unprecedented Worldwide Media Coverage

After years of work, in September ERI released almost 200 pages of new research in two explosive publications linking the oil giants Total and Chevron to forced labor, killings, high-level corruption and authoritarianism in military-ruled Burma (Myanmar). The ERI campaigns team has since been conducting targeted international advocacy with governments, policymakers, and the investment community, and this work appears to be having positive impacts.

In France, the home of Total, the reports were covered by every major print and online media outlet, including: *Liberation* (the second-largest French daily newspaper, devoted an entire cover page and three subsequent pages to the report an unprecedented four full pages of coverage); and *Le Monde*. Internationally, the reports were covered by the *BBC*, *The Independent*, *The South China Morning Post*, *Time Magazine*, *The National*, *Ethical Corporation*, *The Australian*, *Voice of America*, and all of the major news wire services - *AFP*, *Reuters*, *AP*, *DPA*. Burmese language media outlets covered the reports extensively, including *The Irrawaddy*, *Mizzima*, *Khitpyaing news* (or *New Era*), and *Radio Free Asia*. ERI also did feature-length radio interviews in Burmese language with *BBC Burmese service*, *Radio Free Asia*, *Voice of America*, and *DVB*, reaching hundreds of thousands of listeners in Burma. ([Read More](#))



Look for more information on the ERI website in the coming months on the positive outcomes from these reports.

EarthRights School Mekong Alumni Working for Climate Justice and Gender Justice

Mekong Alumni from Thailand, Lao PDR, Vietnam, and Burma attended several workshops focusing on *Women and Climate Change* in Bangkok from



September 27-October 8th. The workshops were planned to coincide with the UNFCC Inter-sessional Conference, International Climate and Strategy Conference and Regional Workshop on Power Alternatives. At the workshops, Mekong alumni took part in developing strategies for action and cooperation between women's groups throughout Asia. The alumni also joined two mass mobilizations on Gender Justice and Climate Justice.

[Read More](#)



EarthRights Alumni Advocate for a People Centred ASEAN

Over a dozen EarthRights Alumni and current students from Burma, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam joined the second ASEAN People's Forum – a mass gathering of civil society organizations and individuals from the ten ASEAN countries. With over six hundred people in attendance, the meeting was originally planned to focus on dialogue between civil society and ASEAN officials, and focus on constructive exchange around the three ASEAN pillars, the key thematic priority areas of Security, Economy and Socio-cultural aspects. Civil society planned to use this meeting to begin engagement with ASEAN on the adoption of a fourth pillar focusing on the critical and often neglected issue of the Environment. However the meeting began with extraordinary controversy when ASEAN officials in unison canceled their attendance. Widely condemned by organisers and participants alike, this highlights how far we still need to go in achieving an ASEAN community where decision makers listen to the voice of the people.



Despite this setback, a number of highlights involving Alumni underscored civil societies determination and resilience to make their issues heard. The ASEAN Youth group was able to share their vision for young people throughout the region. Alumni helped organize and deliver colorful performances, clear messages and passionate statements, and the Youth Group as a whole injected much needed energy into the discussions. Another highlight was the announcement of the submission of the Save the Mekong petition to the Prime Ministers of Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia, calling for a halt to dams on the mainstem of the Mekong River. ERI Alumni have been heavily involved with this campaign since its inception. Already presented to the Thai Prime Minister at the first APF in February this year, Over 23000 signatures gathered on postcards from the region and around the world were sent to the other lower Mekong Country leaders just prior to the 15th ASEAN summit. The Salween Watch Coalition, headed by an EarthRights School Burma Alumni also presented a letter protesting against dams on the Salween River, and will also be presented to heads of State during the ASEAN summit.

ERI Supports C-300, Canada's Corporate Accountability Bill

ERI has joined a host of civil society organizations supporting C-300, a bill in Canada's House of Commons that would require Canadian mining, oil, and gas corporations to abide by internationally recognized human rights and environmental standards, including the International Finance Corporation social and environmental guidelines and the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights. The government would penalize any company found to be out of compliance with these guidelines by barring further support in the form of export credits or public pension plan investment. To encourage enforcement and transparency, the act allows any citizen of Canada or a country where extractive industries operate to file a complaint with the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, which must investigate the complaint and publish its findings.

On October 26, ERI [wrote a letter](#) to the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade of the Canadian House of Commons, in which C-300 is now being debated. ERI pointed out to the committee that by holding companies accountable to internationally recognized standards and providing for enforcement and transparency, Canada fulfills its international human rights obligations, prevents gross abuses before they start, and potentially saves its companies millions of dollars in litigation fees, reputation loss, and lost goodwill. If the Committee recommends C-300 to the full House of Commons without further amendments, it will likely be enacted into law.

Reminder: Take Action on Critical Transparency Legislation in the Senate

Last month, as a member of the Publish What You Pay U.S. (PWYP US) coalition, ERI announced the introduction in the U.S. Senate of the "Energy Security through Transparency Act of 2009," by Sens. Richard Lugar (R-IN) and Ben Cardin (D-MD). The Act, if passed, would require companies registered with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to report

how much they pay each government for access to their oil, gas and minerals. This disclosure would apply to all companies that file with the SEC, regardless of where they are based, and would be added to existing SEC requirements. Most of the world's extractive industries would be covered by this law, and would set a new international standard for corporate and state behavior.

▶ Take Action Now!

[Learn More](#)

EarthRights International (ERI) combines the power of law and the power of people in defense of human rights and the environment.

Learn more about our work at

www.earthrights.org

SUPPORT US -Your donation to ERI will help us fight human rights and environmental abuses around the world. Please consider making a donation today! [There are many ways you can help.](#)

TELL YOUR FRIENDS - Send the ERI e-newsletter to your friends and co-workers concerned about human rights and the environment. If you got this message from a friend, you may sign yourself up to receive our monthly newsletter by sending your full name and email address to newsletter@earthrights.org

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